

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /137 W

----- 111640

R 281620Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4308

INFO USINT ALGIERS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TS, LY

SUBJECT: QADHAFI MEETING WITH BOURGUIBA IN GENEVA

REF: (A) TUNIS 290 (B) TUNIS 471

1. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT QADHAFI'S MEETING WITH BOURGUIBA IN GENEVA JANUARY 25 REPRESENTED AN ATTEMPT BY QADHAFI TO SPEED UP UNION PROCESS. WE UNDERSTAND, FOR EXAMPLE, FROM GOOD SOURCE THAT QADHAFI PROPOSED REFERENDUM BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 8. TUNISIANS TURNED THIS PROPOSAL DOWN. IT IS BELIEVED THAT QADHAFI WENT AWAY IN A HUFF. IN PUBLIC STATEMENT UPON HIS RETURN FROM GENEVA PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA HAD LITTLE TO SAY ABOUT MEETING. HE STATED THAT MEETING HAD DEALT WITH DIFFERENT STEPS INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTATION OF DJERBA DECLARATION, INCLUDING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

2. COMMENT: AS WE INDICATED IN TUNIS 471, QADHAFI'S
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QUICK TRIP TO GENEVA CAUGHT GOT BY SURPRISE. UPON

LEARNING THAT QADHAFI WAS AIRBOUND, NOUIRA EITHER CALLED
BOURGUIBA TO PROPOSE HE AND OTHER MINISTERS BE PRESENT
AT GENEVA ENCOUNTER, OR BOURGUIBA CALLED NOUIRA AND ASKED
THAT HE COME. IN ANY EVENT,
QADHAFI MEETING WITH BOURGUIBA WAS HELD OFF UNTIL
NOUIRA AND OTHER MINISTERS COULD BE PRESENT. (LOCAL
PRESS REPORT THAT NOUIRA AND OTHERS WERE IN GENEVA EVENING
JANUARY 24 IS INCORRECT AND APPEARS TO REPRESENT GOT
EFFORT PUT BEST FACE ON LATEST HASTY QADHAFI DEMARCHE.)
QADHAFI SHOULD BY NOW HAVE GOTTEN MESSAGE THAT GOT INTENDS
TO PROCEED SLOWLY, AND THAT FURTHER INTERVENTION WITH
BOURGUIBA TO SPEED IT UP WILL NOT RPT NOT BE SUCCESSFUL.
FACT THAT NOUIRA TOOK ALONG HEZDS OF EMPLOYEE AND EMPLOYER
ASSOCIATIONS (UTICA AND UGTT), AS WELL AS PRESIDENT
NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY, SHOWS HIS DESIRE MAINTAIN CONSENSUS APPROACH ON
UNITY SLOWDOWN. MOST INTERESTING
AND PROMISING DEVELOPMENT IS THAT PRIME MINISTER
NOUIRA SEEMS TO BE TAKING A FIRM GRIP.
SEELYE

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